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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 19 February 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters concerning Israel's attacks on southern Lebanon and the Western Bekaa and the arbitrary practices against the civilian inhabitants in which it engages on a daily basis, I have the honour to notify you of the series of such incidents that took place in January 1998.

2 January 1998

At 0515 hours Israeli forces fired several shells at areas along the Litani River.

At 0800 hours, as Officer Zayd Sariwi, acting commander of the Hasbayya detachment, was travelling in a Security Forces vehicle belonging to the detachment he was required by Lahad militia elements to go to their security post. They took him to Khiyam prison, and the vehicle was returned to detachment headquarters.

At 1050 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South and Western Bekaa areas at high altitude.

At 1550 hours Israeli forces fired a number of artillery shells towards Iqlim al-Tuffah.

3 January 1998

At 0920 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the area to the east of Sidon at high altitude.

At 1900 hours Israeli forces fired several artillery shells at the Sujud hill, Jabbur pool and Jabal al-Rafi' vicinity.

5 January 1998

At 0700 hours outlying areas of Mansuri, Majdal Zun and Hinniyah came under Israeli artillery fire. A person was injured in Majdal Zun.

At 2200 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Maydun and Ayn al-Tinah and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

6 January 1998

Between 0400 and 0600 hours an Israeli gunboat at sea off the Mansuri coast fired several bursts of medium-weapons fire in various directions.

7 January 1998

At 1400 hours Israeli forces fired several artillery shells at Jabal Sujud and areas along the Nab' al-Tasah.

8 January 1998

At 0730 hours the outskirts of Mansuri, Majdal Zun and Hinniyah and the Nabi Imran neighbourhood of Qulaylah came under Israeli artillery fire. Jalilah Muhammad Qubaysi was wounded.

At 1400 hours outlying areas of Kafra, Yatar, Haris, Haddatha, Tibnin, Shaqra and Bra'shit came under Israeli artillery fire. At the same time, Israeli warplanes and combat helicopters overflew the area.

At 2330 hours outlying areas of Yatar, Kafra, Haris, Haddatha, Ayta al-Jabal, Bra'shit and Shaqra came under Israeli artillery fire.

9 January 1998

At 0645 hours Israeli forces fired several shells and bursts of medium-weapons fire at the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah.

At 1430 hours two Israeli helicopters overflew outlying areas of Majdal Zun dropping heat balloons.

10 January 1998

At 1505 hours Israeli forces fired several shells at outlying areas of Majdal Zun and at Jabal Safi.

Between 1105 and 1130 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah, Iqlim al-Tuffah and Sidon areas at high altitudes.

11 January 1998

At 0300 hours an Israeli gunboat out at sea fired a number of bursts. It also fired three flares over the sea.

13 January 1998

At 1315 hours Israeli aircraft overflew the Nabatiyah area at medium altitudes.

14 January 1998

At 1105 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitudes.

At 1510 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Jiyah, Sa'diyat and Damur bridge areas in Shuf district and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1940 hours Israeli warplanes overflew villages in the area east of Sidon and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

15 January 1998

In the morning, Israeli forces closed the Jazzin - Yatar and Kafr Falus - Ayn al-Mir crossings in both directions to vehicles and pedestrians. They reopened them at 1100 hours.

At 1300 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitudes.

At 1315 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps at high altitudes.

At 1350 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area at medium altitudes.

16 January 1998

At 0530 hours Israeli forces detained Mahmud Yasin and Husayn Qa'ur at sea off the Mansuri coast and took them inside the occupied areas. They released them at 0800 hours on 19 January, and they made their way to port at Tyre.

At 0625 hours outlying areas of Jba', Ayn Bu Siwar and Jarju' came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1010 hours Israeli warplanes attacked outlying areas of Ayn Qana, Humin al-Fawqa, Jba', Arabsalim and Jarju'. The home of Muhammad Bahij Duwayk in Jarju' was damaged. The bombardment stopped at 1300 hours.

At 1015 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps at low altitudes.

At 1030 hours clashes in which weapons of all types were used broke out in outlying areas of Sujud, Jazzin district, between Israeli and Lahad forces on the one hand and elements of the National Resistance on the other. A number of Israelis and members of the Lahad militia were wounded and were taken to hospitals in the occupied areas.

At 1220 Israeli warplanes overflew the Sa'diyat, Jiyah and Damur bridge areas and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1830 hours outlying areas of Kafra, Yatar, Haddatha, Haris, Ayta al-Jabal, Bra'shit, Shaqra, Qabrikha, Sawwanah and Majdal Silm as well as Wadi al-Qaysiyah came under Israeli artillery fire. This was accompanied by overflights by Israeli warplanes.

17 January 1998

At 0630 hours outlying areas of Qulaylah, Izziyah, Hinniyah, Mansuri and Majdal Zun in Tyre district came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1110 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Na'imah hills at low altitudes dropping heat balloons.

At 1800 hours the Iqlim al-Tuffah area came under Israeli artillery fire.

19 January 1998

At 1100 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim, Luwayzah, Jarju' and Ayn Bu Siwar and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire.

21 January 1998

At 0915 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps.

At 0930 hours outlying areas of Zibqin and Jibal al-Butm came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1000 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitudes.

23 January 1998

At 0630 hours outlying areas of Tibnin, Ayta al-Jabal, Bra'shit, Haris, Kafra and Yatar came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1200 hours outlying areas of Mashgharah came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1200 hours clashes in which weapons of all types were used broke out in Tumat Niha, Jazzin district, between Israeli and Lahad forces on the one hand and elements of the National Resistance on the other. They continued until 1300 hours.

At 1230 hours outlying areas of Jba', Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar, Arabsalim and Luwayzah, the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills and areas along the Zahrani River came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1300 hours clashes broke out between elements of the National Resistance on the one hand and Lahad militia elements and Israeli forces on the other in which all types of weapons were used. They continued until 1500 hours.

At 1430 hours Israeli warplanes attacked the Ayn Bu Siwar - Jba' road. This was accompanied by an Israeli artillery bombardment of villages and towns in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area and residential neighbourhoods in Jarju'. Muhammad Ali Jawwad was injured and a dwelling was damaged.

25 January 1998

At 1300 hours outlying areas of Tibnin, Bra'shit, Ayta al-Jabal, Shaqra and Majdal Silm came under Israeli artillery fire.

26 January 1998

At 1320 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah area at low altitudes.

At 1540 hours outlying areas of Zibqin and Jibal al-Butm in Tyre district came under Israeli artillery fire.

27 January 1998

At 0830 hours outlying areas of Maydun and the surrounding hills, the vicinity of the Jabbur pool and the area of Mashgharah near the vocational school came under Israeli artillery fire. Serious damage was caused to a dwelling, and Huyam Husayn Yasin was injured.

At 1430 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at high altitudes.

At 1450 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps at high altitudes, and at 1800 hours did so again at medium altitudes.

At 1815 hours Israeli warplanes carried out intensive low-level overflights of the Nabatiyah area.

At 1830 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Mashgharah, Ayn al-Tinah, Maydun, Dallafah and Qilya and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire.

28 January 1998

At 1530 hours outlying areas of Kafra, Yatar, Haddatha and Haris came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1630 hours the security situation in the Jabal al-Rayhan area became strained and there were clashes between Israeli and Lahad militia forces on the

one hand and men of the Lebanese National Resistance on the other in which weapons of all types were used. Calm was restored at 1730 hours.

At 1730 hours outlying areas of Jba' came under Israeli artillery fire.

29 January 1998

At 2230 hours outlying areas of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the vicinity of the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks there came under artillery fire from Israeli positions on the hills opposite Nabatiyah. The shelling stopped at 0100 hours on 30 January.

30 January 1998

At 1100 hours Israeli forces fired several shells at areas along the Nab' al-Tasah.

31 January 1998

At 0030 hours Israeli forces fired shells directly at the Jabbur pool and towards the Iqlim al-Tuffah area.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns the continued Israeli occupation and the fresh attacks and arbitrary practices against the civilian Lebanese population that have left a number of wounded and caused further serious damage to property.

Like previous attacks, this new series is in flagrant violation of the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and constitutes a breach of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, of international law and of basic human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir HOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative